

DON'T MISS CHURCH NEXT WEEK!
Remember to **SPRING FORWARD!**



Church Lock-up Schedule:



3/01 - 3/07 Charlie Cobb
3/08 - 3/14 Barry Griffin
3/15 - 3/21 Bill Munson
3/22 - 3/28 Hank Chapman



Friday, March 6 will be our next First Friday Family Night. Please bring any board or card games you want to play or teach others to play. We will meet from 6:00 - 8:30 pm. Join us for family fun and fellowship!



AVAILABLE NOW!!

You have until **March 25, 2026** to make your \$20 donation to win FOUR round trip Southwest Airline tickets. On that day, the Children First Preschool will host our Wednesday night dinner (@ 5:30) and hold the drawing for the winning ticket. See your friendly flight crew member (aka Marianne) for your opportunity to fly! You may also make your donation (purchase tickets) in the church office Monday - Thursday. Thank you in advance for your support of Children First Preschool here at EFUMC.



There will be a **Spiritual Life Retreat** at Camp Glisson March 13-15. If you are a youth, or would like to find out about being a chaperone volunteer, Joseph Lowery has the information. 706-669-0172.



Easter is just around

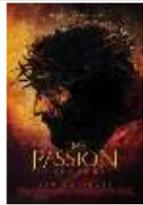
The Children's Ministry is in need of eggs for our annual Easter Egg hunt. If you would donate a dozen plastic eggs that are already filled, we would be so grateful! You can drop off eggs in the church office or with Marianne.

the corner!

The Nominating Committee will have a brief meeting next Sunday, 3/8, after the worship service. The SPR Committee will meet following the worship service on 3/15.

Is something missing?
We didn't list birthdays this week. That's odd, isn't it? Our records indicate that there are only three March birthdays and they all fall between March 21-23. Perhaps we don't have complete information on some of our congregation. PLEASE, let us know if you believe we have incomplete records for you or your family.

We have the opportunity to offer a free showing of the movie *The Passion of The Christ* during Holy Week. This movie came out in 2004 and follows the final 12 hours prior to Jesus's death on the cross. The showing will be at Mountain Cinemas in Ellijay at 11:30 on 4/3/26 which is Good Friday. Please let the office know if you are interested in attending by March 12.



Prayers for the Week

Pray without ceasing for family/friends, teachers, doctors, pastors, World Leaders/Military, the weak, sick, & hungry, ourselves. Prayer Request Forms are in the Pew Racks. Names highlighted in **bold** are new additions or changes to the Prayer List.

General Juston Davis Brett Welch	Lanny Lane Recuperating from Surgery Jim Brownell Johnny Ganas Bill McKinney Vincent Marino Katherine Meyer Jason Neubert Frank Richardson	Robert Westmoreland
Health Brent Badinski Charles Benner Kevin Brett Mark Brown Joan Compton Brenda Eisanhart Betty Jo Hanes Ruth Hix Johnny Jones Missy Kepley John Mahan Anthony Palmeri Betty Perry Wanda Sandels Ann Shearon Mike Vitelli Dan Weaver Clyde White Bobbie Wilson	Shut-In Peter Adams Ernette Calhoun Earline Copley Jim Hagopian Mack Hipp Johnny Johnson Margie Pyren Myron Seagraves Paul Stanhope	Hospice Doug Bater Shirley Goldston Ed Jeffery Rudi Lanchardt
Upcoming Surgery	Caregiver Nell Bater Cherie Dice Scott Goldston Carolyn Hipp Pat Johnson Julie Kepley Susan Marino Peggy Richardson Lorraine Segraves Joan Stanhope Sherry Weaver	

Prayer Request forms are in the pew racks. Please fill free to complete and drop in the offering plate if you have a request.

Our Weekly Schedule:

Sun - Helping Hands Sunday School 8:45
Worship Service 10:00 am
Altars Study Group 11:00 am
Singles/Mingles 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Mon - Team Tabitha Sewing Ministry (1st & 3rd Mon) 9:00 am -12:00 pm
Wed -LIJ Kids 3:30 - 5:00 pm
Young Adult Bible Study 5:00-6:00 pm
Handbell Choir Practice 5:30 - 6:30
Chancel Choir Practice 6:30 - 8:00 pm



Upcoming Events:

Sunday, March 1 - Communion Sunday
Friday, March 6 - LIJ Kids First Friday Game Night, Fellowship Hall
Sunday, March 8 - Daylight Savings Time begins
Monday, March 9 - Administrative Council Meeting 6:00 pm
Thursday, March 12 - Men's Group, Fellowship Hall 4:30pm
Tuesday, March 17 - Joyful Noon Circle Fellowship Hall 12:00pm

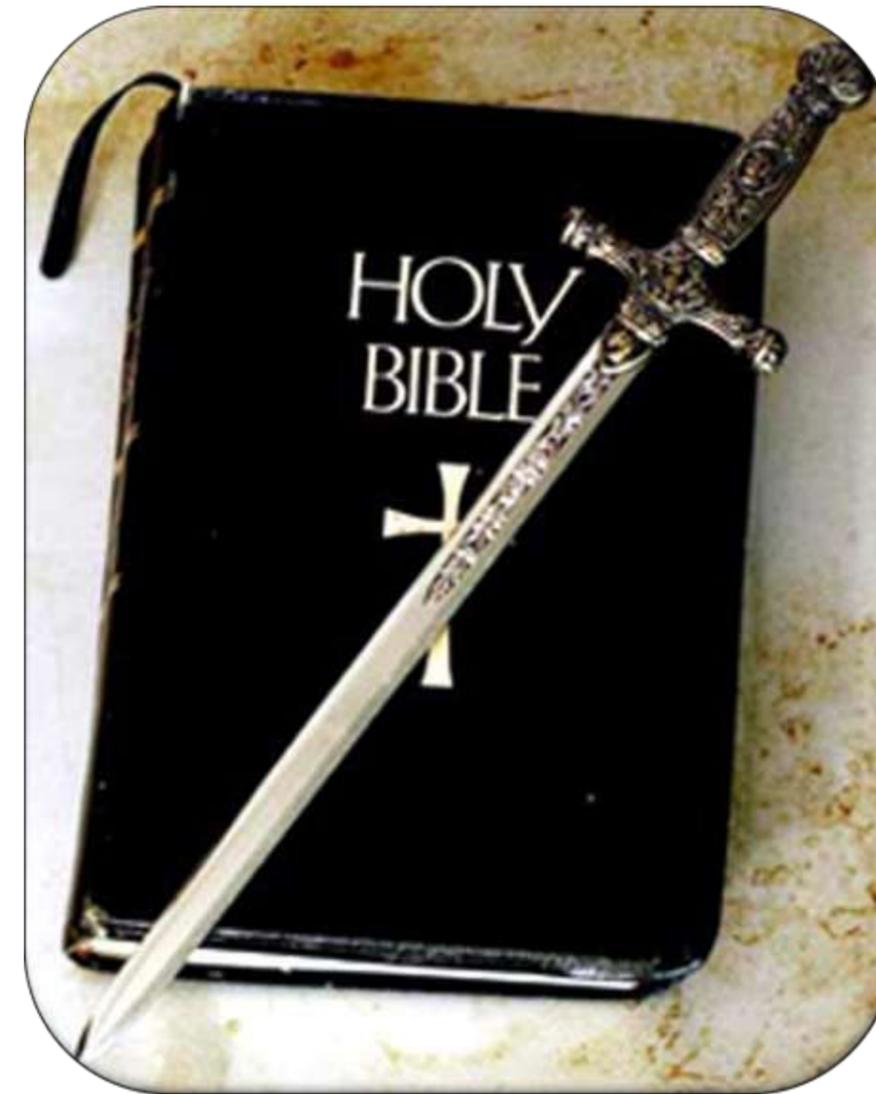
Church Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9 am- 4 pm
Rev. Dr. Mike Shearon, Pastor, Mike.Shearon@georgiaumc.net
Church phone: 706-635-2555; Fax: 706-273-2555
Web site: ellijayfirstumc.org

Jennetta Lowery...Administrative Assistantoffice@ellijayfirstumc.org
Gabrielle Cornett...Pianist & Organist
Sarah ThorneDirector of Music...music@ellijayfirstumc.org
Marianne EvansChildren's Ministries and Preschool Director.... children@ellijayfirstumc.org
Joseph Lowery.... Youth Director.....youth@ellijayfirstumc.org
Zack Kepley.....Audio/Video Technician...media@ellijayfirstumc.org
Julie Kepley.....Nursery Coordinator
Debbi Westcott....Communications Coordinator..... communications@elijayfirstumc.org
Finance office....Giving statements/Accounts.....finance@ellijayfirstumc.org



Ellijay First United Methodist Church
Rev. Dr. Mike Shearon, Pastor

75 McCutchen Street
PO Box 472
Ellijay, GA 30540
706-635-2555



Sunday, March 1, 2026
10:00 am Worship Service
Second Sunday of Lent

Sunday Worship Service
March 1, 2026
The Second Sunday of Lent

The Chiming of the Hour

The Prelude: arr by Mark Hayes
"Total Praise"

Welcome, Announcements and Invocation
The Reverend Dr. Michael Shearon

Call To Worship arr by Buchanan
"Lord, Who Throughout Theses Forty Days"

† **The Greeting** Liturgist & Congregation
God calls us to set out in faith.
The love of God leads us home.
Christ blesses us that we might bless others.
The blessings of Christ heal our world.
The Holy Spirit strengthens us for the journey.
The power of the Spirit sustains and supports us.
The One who made heaven and earth meets us here.

† **The Hymn of Praise** UMH 159
"Lift High the Cross"

† **The Affirmation of Faith** **The Apostles Creed**
I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

† **The Gloria Patri**
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

Children's Sermon

Pastoral & Congregational Prayer Rev. Dr. Shearon

The Lord's Prayer UMH 895

† **The Hymn of Preparation** UMH 389
"Freely, Greely"

The Worship with Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory Music arr by Lloyd Larson
"Let All Things Now Living"

† **The Presentation and Doxology**
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Him, all creatures here below;
praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

Choir Anthem by John Reim
"Lamb of God"

† **The Scripture Reading** **Ephesians 6:17**
Matthew 7:24-28
II Corinthians 10:3-5

The Sermon
"The Sword of the Spirit - Part 2"

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

† **The Closing Hymn** UMH 573
"O Zion, Haste"

*Anyone wishing to join this church
may come forward during the closing hymn.*

† **The Pastoral Benediction**

† **The Postlude** arr by Lloyd Larson
"We've A Story to Tell to The Nations"

*Prayer team members are available after the service.
They will be wearing white shawls.*

† - Stand as you are able

Ephesians 6:17

¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Matthew 7:24-28

Continuing in the Faith
²⁴ "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."
²⁸ When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching,

II Corinthians 10:3-5

Contending for the Faith
³ For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. ⁴ The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. ⁵ We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

Supplemental Scripture:

"Continuing in the Faith"
Philippians 1:6
Luke 8:4-15
II Timothy 3:14-17
I Peter 1:24-25
Matthew 24:35
Matthew 4:1-10

"Contending for the Faith"
Romans 1:16
I Timothy 2:5
Jude 3

You Are Welcome Here

You enter this church not as a stranger, but as a guest of God. He is your Heavenly Father. Come then, with joy in your heart and thanks on your lips, into His presence, offering Him your love and service. Be grateful to the men and women who, in the name of Jesus Christ, built this historic place of worship and to all who have beautified it and hallowed it with prayer and praise. Beseech His blessings on those who love this house of faith as the inspiration of their labor, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, and may that blessing rest upon your going out and your coming in.